

THE CLAN CHAT

Your quarterly Clan Canines Newsletter



Welcome to The Clan Chat!

By Tammie Kirk

Welcome to the first edition of The Clan Chat

Since the launch of Clan Canines (some of you will remember when it was Capital Canines!) I have always tried to provide a premium service to all my clan and something far more exciting and enriching for your dogs than other companies offer.

We always go to great locations for our crusades and I include structured play sessions and mental enrichment activities. My mission is always to send your dogs back home happier than when I picked them up (and yes, unfortunately this sometimes means a little bit muddier too!) I know how important your pooches are so I always aim to provide everything you could wish for them to experience, and more!

I take my responsibilities very seriously which is why I'm qualified in Canine First Aid, registered with Edinburgh City Council, fully insured through Petplan Sanctuary, hold an Animal Boarding license and a Basic Disclosure. I'm constantly working on my CPD (that's Canine Professional Development for those who weren't sure) and I am always keen to hear of ways I can improve my service so please feel free to provide any feedback either in person or to tammie.kirk@clancanines.co.uk

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This will be a quarterly newsletter and I hope you enjoy reading it as much as I enjoy looking after your dog(s)!

Tammie xx

HOW I KEEP YOUR 'HOT DOGS' COOL!

With this year's weather going from baltic to balmy in the space of just weeks, it has always been really important to me to keep the dogs safe in hot weather.

I take several measures to try and ensure your pups are cool and collected on their crusades! The van has a half bulkhead which means cool air from the windows can reach the dogs in their cages. There is also a flettner vent and each cage has a cooling mat which helps keeps the dogs up to 7oC below the ambient temperature. My handy porta-shower also comes in useful on hot days! In the winter I used it to clean the dogs after their walks but now I fill it with cold water in the morning and use it to spray on the dogs after a hot walk to cool them down before heading home.

I also carry lots of water and portable water bowls in my rucksack and we always stop for water breaks on hot days.

And on really hot days, I try to stick to locations like Corstorphine Hill or Cammo, where we can hide out in the shade of trees. Alternatively in the mornings we'll head to the beach or river so the dogs can jump in the water to cool down.



CURLY CRUSADES

If any of you have missed it, I've launched a new service on a Monday afternoon called the Curly Crusade. This is a crusade specifically designed with poodles and poodle-cross breeds in mind. The Crusade lasts an hour and a half and takes place in some of my favourite locations in and around Edinburgh. I incorporate games and mental enrichment exercises that are exclusively designed around the needs and behaviours of poodles to really give them a great experience.

Places are very limited and filling fast but if you'd like your pup to have a place, they automatically qualify by already being part of the clan so get in touch and I'll let you know if I still have space.

ALABAMA ROT

You all know that I've been harping on about Alabama Rot for some time now. That's because I love all your dogs so much and want them to stay safe. There have now been a couple of confirmed cases in Scotland but thankfully (to my knowledge) none yet in Edinburgh.

It's hard to know what to do for the best as so little is known yet about Alabama Rot, but experts believe the best thing you can do is hose your dogs paws down after muddy walks or swimming in stagnant water. My vet friend, Catriona, is a constant source of good advice for me and she advises that spraying paws with diluted Hibiscrub after hosing down could potentially help prevention further so I always carry this in the van. I have a large quantity of Hibiscrub at home so if you have a small container and would like to try some before buying (it's also great to keep cuts and grazes sterile too), then let me know and I can decant some for you.

I'll keep you updated as and when I hear any more official advice on preventing Alabama Rot but rest assured I'm doing everything in my power to keep my clan safe!



TRAINING TIPS FOR A GREAT CRUSADE!

My top tips for keeping your dog near you when you're out on your crusades;

1. Before you head off on your crusade, make sure you have your dog's favourite toy or treats with you (oh, and poo bags too!)
2. When you get to your favourite spot, have a good look around before letting them off lead (particularly look out for other off-lead dogs who may distract them or, in the case of Corstorphine Hill especially, watch out for any horses or deer!)
3. Before you let your dog off lead, show him the toy or treats that you brought. Get eye contact from them and make sure their tail is wagging! Making sure they know you have the goodies they love will almost always ensure compliance!!
4. Keep their attention whilst you let them off-lead. Make sure the first thing you do is play with them (then that will be the thing they remember)
5. Enjoy your crusade!

This really works and is exactly what I do when I take your dogs on our crusades!

SHARE THE LOVE

Clan Canines is a pretty exclusive club and I feel lucky to have such fantastic clan members! My books are almost full and I'd always rather take a referral than a stranger as I know all your friends will be as wonderful as you all are!

So if you have a dog owning friend or relative who you think would love to be part of our clan, please pass on my details to them. I have plenty of leaflets and business cards so don't hesitate to ask for some if you'd like to share them!

